

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Defining Primary Lines)
)
Maintaining Currency of)
Line Classification)

CC Docket No. 97-181

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PETITION FOR WAIVER

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") hereby files this petition for waiver pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.3. BellSouth seeks a temporary waiver of the requirement, stated in paragraph 15 of the *Report and Order* in the above-referenced proceeding,¹ that local exchange carriers ("LECs") cross-check customer service records to insure appropriate line classification for purposes of assessing presubscribed interchange carrier charges ("PICCs").² As described below, BellSouth's mechanized ordering systems do not currently possess the capability of performing the cross-check function envisioned in the *Report and Order* nor can these systems be made compliant before the effective date of July 1, 1999. To allow time for the development and testing of necessary upgrades and to effect manual correction of the existing database, BellSouth requests a limited waiver of the cross-check requirement until October 1, 1999.

¹ In the Matter of Defining Primary Lines, CC Docket No. 97-181, FCC 99-28, *Report and Order & Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, released March 10, 1999 ("Report and Order").

² "This [location-based] definition will require carriers to cross-check records within a service location to ensure that only one subscriber line per residence receives the primary-line rates..." *Report and Order*, ¶ 15.

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DISCUSSION

Following release of the *Access Charge Reform Order*³ BellSouth adopted a location-based definition to identify primary residence lines. Customer notification was employed as the mechanism for assuring the continued currency of individual line classifications. Accordingly, BellSouth's tariff required end user customers to advise the Company in the event a primary residential line was disconnected. This tariff remains in effect today.⁴

The *Report and Order* and implementing regulations place on LECs the responsibility of maintaining current line status information to insure that one primary line--and only one primary line--is billed per service location. At this time BellSouth does not have the capability of performing cross checks on disconnect and flow through ("D&F") orders, which would enable conversion of a non-primary line to primary line status upon disconnection of the original primary line. Hence, some service locations identified in BellSouth's Customer Records Information System ("CRIS") database currently display all primary line accounts, while some locations appear as all non-primary line.⁵ These locations may be served by BellSouth retail residence lines, by wholesale (resold) lines, or by some combination of the two. To bring its systems into compliance with the *Report and Order* BellSouth must address errors in the existing database, as well as develop a program which identifies discrepancies and provides line status updates on a monthly basis.

The proposed waiver will enable BellSouth to utilize 180 customer service representatives, who will be charged with manual correction of the existing database. During

³ In the Matter of Access Charge Reform, CC Docket No. 96-262, FCC 97-158, *First Report and Order*, 12 FCC 15982 (1997) ("*Access Charge Reform Order*").

⁴ See BellSouth Tariff FCC No. 1, Section 2.6.

⁵ A review conducted by BellSouth has identified certain existing customer accounts billed as all non-primary line and other accounts billed as all primary line.

this interim BellSouth will also implement a program which will identify, at a frequency of once per month, any service locations showing all non-primary lines or all primary lines. Ultimately, this program will be capable of sending information directly to the CRIS database, offering a fully mechanized system for line status verification and data correction. Finally, while the waiver is in effect, BellSouth proposes to maintain its current tariff, which allows customers to secure the benefits of current line status information by notifying BellSouth when changes occur.

As shown above, the proposed waiver clearly satisfies the “good cause” standard of *WAIT Radio*.⁶ A significant effort is required to correct anomalies in the existing database and develop a mechanism for continuous monitoring and update of primary/non-primary line classification. The public interest will be served by granting BellSouth the limited waiver needed to accomplish these tasks. Conversely, no party will be prejudiced by a three-month delay in implementing this aspect of the *Report and Order*, and customers can still assure the accuracy of billing information by advising BellSouth when disconnect of a primary line occurs.

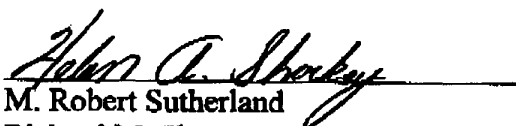
⁶ *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153 (D.C. Cir. 1969).

CONCLUSION

Good cause having been shown, the Commission should grant BellSouth's petition for waiver and defer the effective date of record cross-check requirements introduced by the *Report and Order* until October 1, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

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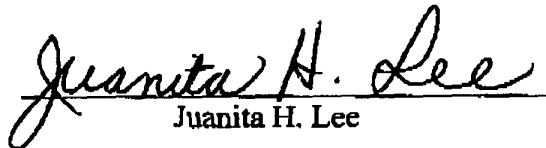
Date: June 7, 1999

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that I have this 7th day of June 1999 served the following parties to this action with a copy of the foregoing PETITION FOR WAIVER by hand delivery or by placing a true and correct copy of the same in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties listed below.

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